

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 IGA-02 /037 W

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P R 301623Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 2215

ABIDJAN FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TO

SUBJECT: TOGOLESE AIR FORCE

REF: USDAO R 241520Z SEP 76

1. TWO FOUGA MAGISTER JET TRAINERS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. DELIVERY OF OTHER THREE HAS BEEN DELAYED BY STRIKE AT FACTORY AND MAY NOT ARRIVE IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN JANUARY 13 CEREMONIES AS DESIRED BY GOT.

2. FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE MORVAN CONFIRMS TOGO PLANS TO ACQUIRE 3 MACCHI "XAVANTES" FROM BRAZIL. INITIALLY SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED OCTOBER 76. HOWEVER, PAYMENT WAS TO BE MADE IN PHOSPHATES AND SINCE PRICE HAS FALLEN SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW \$45/TON AT TIME OF INITIAL NEGOTIATION, BRAZIL HAS REQUESTED RENEGOTIATION.

3. SECOND DEHAVILLAND BUFFALO ARRIVED IN SEPTEMBER.

4. ELEVEN STUDENT PILOTS IN ZAIRE. ONE INJURED AND DROPPED FROM TRAINING. EYADEMA WANTS TO DISCONTINUE THIS TRAINING AND EITHER BRING STUDENT PILOTS TO LOME TO TRAIN ON FOUGA MAGISTER OR SEND TO BRAZIL FOR TRAINING ON MACCHI "XAVANTES". HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT WANT TO OFFEND MOBUTU AND DELAYS ISSUING RECALL ORDER.

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5. SIX STUDENT PILOTS ARE IN FRANCE. ONE COMPLETED PILOT TRAINING AND STARTED THIS YEAR SPECIALIST SCHOOLING AS FIGHTER PILOT. SECOND IS ONE YEAR FROM GRADUATING AS PILOT. FOUR OTHERS JUST STARTED PILOT COURSE WHICH TAKES 3-5 YEARS DEPENDING ON APTITUDE. SEVERAL OTHER CANDIDATES HAD WASHED OUT.

6. NO MENTION OF MIRAGE. MORVAN SAYS GOT HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "ALPHA-JET", A JOINTLY BUILT GERMAN-FRENCH FIGHTER PLANE (GERMAN FIRM IS DORNIER). AIRPLANE, HOWEVER, IS NOT YET IN ASSEMBLY LINE PRODUCTION AND INITIAL DELIVERIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRENCH AND GERMAN AIR FORCES. SO AS FAR AS TOGO IS CONCERNED, DELIVERY WOULD BE SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW IF DEAL GOES THROUGH.

7. FYI: TWO PATROL BOATS ARE ON ROUTE TO LOME AND DUE TO SPEND OCT. 1-4 IN ABIDJAN. CREW MIXED FRENCH-TOGOLESE WITH OFFICERS AND SPECIALISTS EXCLUSIVELY FRENCH.
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